

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR, (YURIEV, VLADIMIR)

SUBJECT: SOVIET IREX STUDENT RETURNS TO THE USSR

1. SUMMARY: VLADIMIR YURIEV, NEWLY ARRIVED SOVIET IREX STUDENT, RETURNED TO THE USSR ON SEPT 8 AFTER COMPLAINING ABOUT THE "POOR QUALITY" OF THE HOUSING FURNISHED HIM BY THE U. OF MARYLAND. THOUGH THE SOVIET EMBASSY CLAIMS THAT YURIEV WAS "ORDERED HOME" BECAUSE OF HIS HOUSING, BOTH THE DEPT AND IREX ARE SKEPTICAL THAT HOUSING HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS DEPARTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEPT 13 IREX TELEPHONED THE DEPT TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING SOVIET IREX/UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND STUDENT YURIEV. THE UNIVERSITY DISCOVERED YURIEV WAS MISSING WHEN HE FAILED TO KEEP A REGULAR APPOINTMENT WITH HIS ADVISOR AND A LATER CHECK OF HIS TWO-BEDROOM AIR-CONDITIONED BASEMENT APARTMENT SHOWED IT WAS EMPTY.

3. DEPTOFF CONTACTED INS AND WAS TOLD THAT YURIEV HAD DE-
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PARTED THE U.S. ON SEPT 8 (SU-312). LATER ON THE 13TH, THE

SOVIET EMBASSY CONTACTED IREX AND TOLD HIM THE STUDENT HAD BEEN ORDERED HOME BECAUSE IREX HAD BEEN UNWILLING TO INTERVENE TO IMPROVE HIS HOUSING.

4. YURIEV HAD EARLIER COMPLAINED VOCIFEROUSLY OVER HOUSING FURNISHED HIM, AND THREATENED TO RETURN TO THE USSR IF IT WASN'T IMPROVED. BOTH AN IREX REPRESENTATIVE AND AN OFFICIAL FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY INSPECTED HIS HOUSING AND FOUND IT SATISFACTORY. SOVIET EMBASSY REP, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE IREX REPRESENTATIVE, SAID IT WAS FINE.

5. THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT YURIEV WAS ESCORTED FROM WASHINGTON TO NEW YORK TO CATCH (OR BE PUT ON) THE AEROFLOT FLIGHT. KOKOVIN, THIRD SECRETARY OF SOVIET EMBASSY, REQUESTED SHORT NOTICE (24 HOURS) PERMISSION TO VISIT NEW YORK CITY BETWEEN SEPT 8 AND 12, GIVING HIS PURPOSE FOR TRAVEL AS "BUSINESS". IREX REPORTED FROM EARLIER CONTACTS WITH YURIEV THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY, INDEED UNREASONABLY STUBBORN, AND DISPLAYED OTHER PERSONALITY TRAITS WHICH MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM EMOTIONAL STRESS.

6. DEPT HAS NO PLANS TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY. ROBINSON

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